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#### U. S. FASCISTS PREPARE FOR 1940 ELECTIONS

Throughout the country the fascist groups are making plans for the 1940 elections. From New York to the West coast the would-be fuhrers, little and big, are preparing their political campaigns. In some camps a certain amount of confusion reigns. The Silver Shirts, for example, find themselves somewhat distressed by the fact that their logical choice for the presidency will most likely be in jail at election time; the Bund, by the fact that their leader is already behind bars. In both cases, however, substitutes are being seriously considered.

#### The Bund and Dewey

The subject of the 1940 elections, *The Hour* learns, was discussed (among other matters) at secret meetings recently held in the Middle West and elsewhere by Hitler's emissary, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (see *The Hour* for April 27). The powers-that-be in Berlin had for some time been dissatisfied with the conduct of the German-American Bund. It is now pointed out to the Bundsters that they have placed far too much emphasis on Nazism and far too little on Americanism. They are being told to remedy this error, and the first major application of their new technique will be in the elections this Fall.

Interestingly enough, under serious consideration at the moment in inner Bund circles is the open endorsement of Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency. One of the Bund bigwigs remarked after Dewey's speech in Los Angeles on April 20: "He said so many things which have always been advocated by the Bund that I would suggest the Bund might just as well support his election." There is one minor hitch to supporting Dewey; the Bund feels Dewey is partially responsible for the sentence passed on Fritz Kuhn. Hints are already being dropped in the Bund press that if some assurance is given of Kuhn's pardon after the elections, then Mr. Dewey can count on full support from "the Bund and countless German-Americans."

#### Plans of McWilliams

Neither Coughlin nor the Christian Front has as yet decided whom to endorse in the presidential campaign. Various proposals are being made: Senator Reynolds, Martin Dies, Thorkelson, etc. There is a

tendency, however, for Christian Front elements to strike out on their own hook and make political capital for themselves.

An example of this trend is the case of Joseph E. McWilliams, chief of the Christian Mobilizers. He has announced his candidacy for Congress (as representing the 18th District of New York) and has already set up campaign headquarters at 1591 Second Avenue, New York City. The slogan for McWilliams' campaign will be "America's Destiny"; his picturesque if somewhat indefinite symbol is a prairie wagon surrounded by a circle of stars. Support to McWilliams' campaign is coming from such leading fascists as James True, who states that the Mobilizers' head is a splendid candidate for office and that because of his outstanding qualifications "Jewish control senses danger."

#### Cecil's Speech in Cleveland

Among other fascists already making the campaign rounds is John Cecil whose tie-ups with the Christian Front are sufficiently familiar. Unlike McWilliams, he is not rooting for his own candidacy but is lending a helping hand wherever he feels it is deserved. On April 22, for example, he addressed in Cleveland a meeting sponsored by the Ohio Chapter of Pro-America and the National Organization of Republican Women, Inc. The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce invited their members to attend the meeting, stating that "Mr. Cecil is a recognized authority on immigration and unemployment problems in the U. S. A.," but failing to make mention of the fact that the gentleman in question is also a rabid anti-Semite and staunch fascist. Advance publicity stated that Cecil's speech would be "non-partisan." However, only Republican candidates for office were introduced to the audience

#### New York's "Unity Party"

In New York a new fascist group, with its eye to the 1940 elections, has made its appearance. Its name is the Unity Party. Its headquarters are located at 6903 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn. A circular, distributed by the thousand, sets forth the Party's purposes somewhat modestly: "Our main activities for the next several months will be: 1. Anti-New Deal. 2. Anti-Immigration for Ten Years. 3. Advocating Economy in Government." The additional point is casually made that "the Unity Party ... will nominate and elect candidates to replace Lehman, LaGuardia, Isaacs, Fay, Ninfa and many others."

The earmarks of the Unity Party are familiar enough. The street meetings of the organization are marked by fervent anti-Semitic utterances. Social Justice is hawked with characteristic enthusiasm. And the faces of those in attendance readily recall Bund and Christian Front gatherings.

Among the best-known of these faces is that of John J. Olivo. He is playing a leading role in the Unity Party and has addressed several of its meetings. Olivo was formerly captain of the Christian Mobilizers' strong-arm squad (see *The Hour*, November 11, 1939). His record previous to his captaincy of the Mobilizer troopers suitably qualified him for that job, as it likewise qualifies him for his present responsibilities. In January, 1931, he was arrested for stealing an automobile; in October, 1934



he was arrested for attacking and raping a woman; in December, 1934, he was sentenced to the penitentiary.

### Echo of Coughlin

Father Coughlin, who found their terroristic activities mildly embarrassing, several times attempted to disassociate himself (at least publicly) from the elements comprising the Christian Mobilizers. However, these same elements, which are now putting a sturdy shoulder to the building of the Unity Party, have never hesitated to proclaim their allegiance to the Royal Oak priest. The title of the Unity Party, that "political party chartered by the State of New York," is no haphazard choice. It will be remembered that in 1936 Charles Coughlin himself dabbled in the forming of a political party, and its name was the Union Party. The similarity of titles is not coincidence. "What's good enough for the Chief is good enough for us," the Mobilizer boys and their associates say. There is in fact a rumor making the rounds, which perhaps stretches one's credulity, that the Shrine of the Little Flower itself extended a fatherly word of advice when it came to christening the new organization.

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### FATHER COUGHLIN THANKED GILBERT FOR "INFORMATION"

#### Addressed Him Care of Scanlon of Brooklyn Tablet

Among the significant connections of Dudley Pierrepont Gilbert, the fascist of New York and Chicago, one trail leads to no less a person than Father Charles E. Coughlin himself. Gilbert was recently found guilty of assault and battery in a Chicago court; a civil suit for \$50,000, growing out of the same charges, is now pending against Gilbert (see The Hour for May 4, 1940). Father Coughlin wrote to Gilbert on December 9, 1938, addressing the letter care of the Coughlinite newspaper, the Tablet, 1 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N. Y., and saying: "My dear Mr. Gilbert: This is just a note to thank you for your recent letter which reached me safely and promptly. You may be sure that the information you sent to me is deeply appreciated, and I shall use it. With kind regards and best wishes, I am sincerely yours, Charles E. Coughlin."

Gilbert admitted that the priest's letter was in reply to his own letter addressed to Coughlin via Editor Scanlon of the Tablet, but said that he did not remember just what the information, mentioned by Coughlin, was. He said it was the only letter he ever sent to Coughlin, but that he was in the habit of sending to the priest occasional oral messages through Scanlon, suggesting topics for Coughlin's sermons, radio speeches, and articles in Social Justice. He denied that he had ever sent to Coughlin his notorious reports on "the Harmonie Club Plot."

#### "Harmonie Club Plot" -- Gilbert's Financing

The so-called "Harmonie Club Plot" is the fantastic episode with which fascist Dudley Pierrepont Gilbert first brought his name to the attention of the American reading public.

The "Harmonie Club Plot" and Gilbert as its "revealer" were mentioned in the American press in May, 1939, when Gilbert testified before

the Dies Committee that a waiter of the Harmonie Club, 4 East 60th Street, New York, had reported to him on conversations allegedly held by wealthy Jews about "the coming revolution in the United States." Gilbert sent the "information" thus obtained to James Edwin Campbell, a retired U. S. Army captain of Owensboro, Kentucky. He financed Campbell with "loans" to spread this "information" among some trusted associates with an idea of combatting the supposedly anti-American activities. Captain Campbell communicated with General George Van Horn Moseley, and steps were made to approach John Hamilton, chairman of the Republican National Committee, for the names and addresses of influential Republicans on the National Committee to be "informed" of the "plot."

Members of the Dies Committee said that according to bank reports Gilbert gave Campbell \$500 a month, and that Gilbert's total contribution was in the neighborhood of \$9000. Gilbert denied this by saying: "At least two-thirds of what I gave to Campbell was a loan and the total was \$4500, or at tops \$5000." Campbell said that Gilbert appreciated "all I had gone through in the way of developing the Reserve Officers Subversive Activities Committee, the contacts we had made all over the country," and the fact "that I had stuck my nose into practically every organization we could find." Campbell in turn thought that Gilbert was "a perfect gentleman and an honorable American."

### Gilbert's Fascistic Program

On a number of occasions Gilbert wrote and spoke about "international bankers" and their supposed influence in American politics. When he founded his fascistic organization, the American Nationalists of New York, he wrote in a letter: "The American Nationalists want to see the American people freed from the clutches of international bankers, shysters and pawnbrokers. We do not want the United States of America to become known as the Western dominion of the International House of Rothschild ruled over by an undercover Viceroy." He recalled the early "martyrdom" of Mussolini and Hitler, praised Franco, and once he wrote: "The Spanish method will have to be used early this summer." He admitted being distantly related by marriage to a German named Friedrich W. von Meister, who at one time was extremely active on behalf of the Nazi government in its efforts to buy helium in the United States.

Gilbert also came out for extreme American imperialism, writing to Campbell: "The Stars and Stripes must wave over every foot of North America from the Panama Canal to the Arctic Circle." He called for the grabbing of Mexico, Canada and other countries as part of his idea of a great American empire.

### Waiting for More Money

From all appearances it seems that Gilbert is merely waiting for more money to come into his pockets before he enlarges his fascistic activities. To Miss Judith Thompson (the Chicago girl suing him for assault and battery) he boasted that both his father and mother were wealthy and that upon their death he would receive an income of not less than \$30,000 a year. He also said that his wife was wealthy in her own right, and that as far as he was concerned he never had to work for a living and never expected to.

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# Through the Hourglass

BY MICHAEL SAYERS

## THE OPIUM OF FASCISM

Some minor politicians are extremely susceptible to the opium of fascism. Towards the close of lengthy undistinguished careers they sometimes take to this dope with an almost pathetic extravagance. It illuminates their meager existences, awakens their blunted ambitions and raises them to new levels of intensity; it gives them a false but very pleasant sensation of self-importance. For example, who would have heard about our friend from North Carolina, Robert R. Reynolds, if he were not full of fascist dope? Because of his addiction, Senator Reynolds gets an entire pageful of his picture and biography in no less a magazine than Father Charles Coughlin's Social Justice.

Or take the case of the even less noteworthy Jacob Thorkelson, representative from Butte, Montana. He is sixty-two years old, and rather more of a crank than a fascist; but, since he became addicted to the fascist dope, his name has merited headlines in William Dudley Pelley's Liberation and other "super-patriotic" sheets. What's more, the name of Jacob Thorkelson was mentioned recently in the nation's press as having been brought up at the trial of the Christian Front, now proceeding in Brooklyn, New York.

Thorkelson provides a splendid case-history of addiction to fascist dope. He was born in Norway -- yet he now attacks foreign-born Americans and baits aliens. He married a Catholic -- yet he associates himself with forces attacking the Catholic Church.

Politically, of course, Thorkelson was an accident. He got the Republican nomination by default. During his campaign he posed as a liberal; he espoused all sorts of vote-getting causes, including the Townsend Plan. In fact, he actually brought Dr. Townsend to Montana to speak on his behalf. Later, when he had put a thousand miles between himself and his constituents, Thorkelson forgot about his liberalism and took to fascism in real earnest.

Last month the Deutscher Weckruf printed a letter which suggested that the Nazis should reprint Thorkelson's fascistic speeches and incorporate them "in book or pamphlet form." This was fame, indeed. Previously Thorkelson had come all the way to New York to deliver a speech at a meeting arranged by Joe McWilliams of the Christian Mobilizers. The Congressional Record is full of Thorkelson's blather, usually about the "menace of aliens" and "foreign agitators." When he gets "het up" with the fascist dope something happens to Thorkelson. At least, something must happen to him which changes him radically from his usual character -- unless, of course, William Dudley Pelley may be exaggerating. "Thank God," exclaims Pelley, "a new star of patriotic inspiration is arising over the horizon of Capitol Hill in Washington! It is the scintillation of a man! His name is Jacob Thorkelson..."

In the hysterical inner circles of the mutual admiration societies of our homegrown fascists a queer warping of personalities takes place. Little, insignificant, obscure, drab, meek and wilful men assume in their own imaginations, and in the publications of their associates, the proportions of giant-slayers. It's all very odd, very sad, and rather horrible. While the fantasies of these individuals may be unimportant, the consequences of their activities constitute a menace to public safety.

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